

FBIS 28

AFP CITES SOURCES IN PEKING ON BUSH LETTER TO SIHANOUK  
OW110652 HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH 0647 GMT 11 APR 75 OW

(TEXT) PEKING, APRIL 11 (AFP)--GEORGE BUSH, HEAD OF THE AMERICAN LIAISON OFFICE HERE, RECENTLY SENT A LETTER TO PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK, CHAIRMAN OF THE KHMER NATIONAL UNITED FRONT (NUFC) SUGGESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACTS, ACCORDING TO A NUMBER OF USUALLY WELL-INFORMED FOREIGN SOURCES HERE.

SOURCES SAY THE LETTER WAS SENT ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO AND THAT MR BUSH ACTED NOT ON A PERSONAL BASIS BUT AS WASHINGTON'S OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE.

IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER THE PRINCE HAS TAKEN ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION.

THE PRINCE'S ENTOURAGE, QUESTIONED BY AFP, AT FIRST DENIED THE REPORT, THEN WITHDREW THE DENIAL PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH HAD TO BE SOUGHT FROM PRINCE SIHANOUK HIMSELF AND WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN FORTHCOMING.

AFP'S REPEATED QUESTIONS TO THE AMERICAN SIDE HAVE BEEN MET EACH TIME WITH THE REPLY: "WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT".

IT IS ALSO LEARNED FROM AN INFORMED SOURCE THAT PRINCE SIHANOUK RECEIVED SOME DAYS AGO A TELEGRAM FROM THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, ADAM MALIK. THE CONTENT OF THE MESSAGE IS NOT KNOWN.

OBSERVERS RECALL THAT PRINCE SIHANOUK, IN HIS LATEST STATEMENTS, ACCUSED INDONESIA OF "INTERFERENCE" IN CAMBODIA'S AFFAIRS AND OF "COMPLICITY" WITH THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWING INDONESIA'S OFFER OF ITS GOOD OFFICES IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE OPPOSING PARTIES IN CAMBODIA.

THE VERY PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATIONS OF ANY KIND HAS BEEN STEADFASTLY REJECTED BY THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF KHMER NATIONAL UNION (RGNU). THE MOST RECENT REJECTION WAS MADE IN THE NAME OF KHIEU SAMPHAN, THE COMMANDER IN CAMBODIA OF THE KHMER ROUGE FORCES.

11 APR 0802Z RG/TM

EA

S

S/S

LSE

CAB

SIF

TI

P

## INDOCHINA-DECLARATION

BY NEIL DAVIS

PHNOM PENH, APRIL 11 REUTER - THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TODAY ISSUED AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION EXPRESSING REGRET OVER PRESIDENT FORD'S STATE OF THE WORLD SPEECH LAST NIGHT -- IN WHICH HE SAID IT MAY BE ALREADY TOO LATE TO PREVENT THE FALL OF PHNOM PENH TO THE COMMUNISTS.

THE DECLARATION, ISSUED BY THE INFORMATION MINISTRY, SAID THAT "WE ARE PROFOUNDLY DOWNCAST" BY PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH AND "WE HAVE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. HAS AVOIDED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REQUESTING AID FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE."

"WE ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE OUR FIGHT TO SEEK A NEGOTIATED PEACE. THE ATTITUDE OF PRESIDENT FORD WILL NOT AFFECT OUR CONSISTENT POSITION, WHICH IS TO SEEK A CEASEFIRE AS A PRELUDE TO THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION," IT SAID.

THE DECLARATION CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT CAMBODIA WOULD NOT HESITATE TO "REVISE OUR POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE BIG POWERS." THERE IS NO CLEAR INTERPRETATION OF WHAT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH MEANT.

MORE 1238

-----

KC6348)2

RNA 131

## INDOCHINA-DECLARATION 2 PHNOM PENH

BUT POLITICAL OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT COULD WELL TAKE STEPS AGAINST THE U.S. IF AID IS NOT FORTHCOMING PROBABLY LEADING TO THE BREAKING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS BETWEEN CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAVE BEEN IN PROGRESS SINCE PRESIDENT FORD SAID IN HIS SPEECH THAT IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE TO PROVIDE FOOD AND AMMUNITION FOR THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT.

RELIABLE POLITICAL SOURCES SAID THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WOULD SHORTLY BE A NEW ADMINISTRATION FORMED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER CHAU SAU.

MR. CHAU SAU HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT WITHIN TWO OR THREE DAYS, THE SOURCES SAID.

IT WAS EXPECTED THAT PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET WOULD ANNOUNCE HIS RESIGNATION AND THAT OF HIS ENTIRE CABINET WITHIN 48 HOURS, THEY ADDED.

OBSERVERS SAID THE NEW CABINET WAS LIKELY TO CONSIST LARGELY OF OPPOSITION MEMBERS AND OTHERS OUTSIDE THE RULING SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY OF LONG BORET.

MORE 1241

-----

KC6358)1

RNA 132

## INDOCHINA-DECLARATION 3 PHNOM PENH

SOME INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT CABINET, INCLUDING DEFENSE MINISTER AND ARMED FORCES COMMANDER GENERAL SAK SUTSAKHAN, WERE LIKELY TO BE RETAINED IN THE NEW CABINET, THE SOURCES SAID.

MR. CHAU SAU HAS NOT SERVED UNDER PRESIDENT LON NOL AND HAS BEEN A CONSTANT CRITIC OF THE MARSHAL'S REGIME. HE HAS IN THE PAST URGED THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT TO SEEK A RECONCILIATION WITH THE KHMER ROUGE INSURGENTS.

REUTER 1242

-----

EA  
TF  
S/S  
S  
LSE  
D  
D  
C  
S/Am  
LPB  
AID  
H